



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC SETS LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE IN LACLEDE GAS COMPANY RATE CASE

Jefferson City (May 24, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in **St. Charles, downtown St. Louis and Clayton** to receive customer comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Laclede Gas Company. These local public hearings will be held August 13, 2002 and August 14, 2002. The schedule appears below:

August 13, 2002

St. Charles

County Administration Building

Room 116

201 North Second Street

Information Session starts at **6:30 pm**

Local Public Hearing begins at **7:00 pm**

August 14, 2002

St. Louis

Wainwright State Office Building

Room 116

111 North Seventh Street

Information session starts at **12:00 pm**

Local Public Hearing begins at **12:30 pm**

August 14, 2002

Clayton

Chambers of the St. Louis County Council

St. Louis County Government Center

41 South Central

Information Session starts at **6:30 pm**

Local Public Hearing begins at **7:00 pm**

The above facilities meet accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in these local public hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearings.

Local public hearings are designed to give customers of Laclede Gas Company an opportunity to comment on the natural gas rate case before the Public Service Commission. In addition, customers are given an opportunity to bring any service related problems to the Commission's attention.

On January 25, 2002, Laclede Gas Company filed a \$36 million natural gas rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission. For the average residential customer using natural gas for heating, the proposed increase would be approximately \$4.40 a month.

This rate case request represents Laclede's non-gas costs. Non-gas costs are operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or the rates that are charged to Laclede Gas Company for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Laclede Gas Company make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Formal evidentiary hearings will be held August 26, 2002 through August 30, 2002; and September 4, 2002 through September 6, 2002. These hearings will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.

Laclede Gas Company serves approximately 632,600 natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Butler, Iron, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.

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